

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 6, 7, 13-16, and 18, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and add new Claims 30-37 as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

Claim 1 (original): A data communication method, for nodes connected via a communication control bus along which transmission of a mixture of control signals and data is enabled, comprising the steps of:

inhibiting entry of predetermined instructions at an instruction entry unit of a first node during a data transfer from said first node to a second node; and providing a predetermined message for a user, on a display unit at said first node.

Claim 2 (original): A data communication method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of displaying an alarm message on said display unit at said first node upon entry of one of said predetermined instructions at said instruction entry unit during said data transfer.

Claim 3 (original): A data communication method according to claim 1, wherein said first node is an image data supply source and said second node is a printer for receiving and printing image data.

Claim 4 (original): A data communication method according to claim 1 wherein said communication control bus includes an IEEE 1394 serial bus.

Claim 5 (original): A data communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a designation step of designating data to be transmitted from said second node to said first node; and

a search step of searching for said data designated at said designation step and of transmitting said designated data from said first node to said second node.

✓ Claims 6 and 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): A data communication apparatus, which is connected to a network via a communication control bus along which transmission of a mixture of control signals and data is enabled, comprising:

instruction entry means manipulated by a user when entering an instruction;

reception means for receiving a command from a first node via said communication control bus;

transmission means for transmitting, to said first node, data corresponding to a command received by said reception means; and

control means for inhibiting, during transmission of data by said transmission means, entry of predetermined instructions at said instruction entry means, and for displaying a

predetermined message for said user.

Claim 9 (original): A data communication apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising alarm means for displaying an alarm message upon entry of one of said predetermined instructions, entry of which is inhibited during said data transmission.

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Claim 10 (original): A data communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, upon receipt of a data output end signal from said first node, said control means removes inhibitions on entry of said predetermined instructions.

Claim 11 (original): A data communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first node is a printer and said communication control bus is an IEEE 1394 serial bus.

Claim 12 (original): A data communication apparatus according to claim 8, which concerns an image data supply source, wherein said command received by said reception means includes information for specifying said image data.

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Claims 13-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A storage medium, on which is stored a program for executing a data communication method for nodes connected via a communication control bus,

along which transmission of a mixture of control signals and data is enabled, said program comprising:

a program module for inhibiting entry of predetermined instructions at an instruction entry unit of a first node during a data transfer from said first node to a second node, and for providing for a user a predetermined message on a display unit of said first node.

✓ Claims 18-29 (canceled)

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Claim 30 (new): A data communication method to be used in a data communication apparatus that is connected to a serial bus, said data communication method comprising steps of:

transmitting, to another apparatus via said serial bus, image data requested by a command transmitted from said other apparatus; and

inhibiting entry of a predetermined user instruction and notifying a predetermined message to a user during transmission of said image data.

Claim 31 (new): A data communication method according to claim 30, further comprising a step of notifying an alarm message to said user when said predetermined user instruction is entered during transmission of said image data.

Claim 32 (new): A data communication method according to claim 30, wherein said data communication apparatus is an image processing apparatus, and said other

apparatus is a printer for printing image data transmitted from said data communication apparatus.

Claim 33 (new): A data communication method according to claim 30, wherein said serial bus conforms to IEEE 1394 standards.

Claim 34 (new): A data communication apparatus that is connected to a serial bus, said data communication apparatus comprising:

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a data communication unit adapted to transmit, to another apparatus via said serial bus, image data requested by a command transmitted from said other apparatus; and

a control unit adapted to inhibit entry of a predetermined user instruction and to notify a predetermined message to a user during transmission of said image data.

Claim 35 (new): A data communication apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said control unit notifies an alarm message to said user when said predetermined user instruction is entered during transmission of said image data.

Claim 36 (new): A data communication apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said data communication apparatus is an image processing apparatus, and said other apparatus is a printer for printing image data transmitted from said data communication apparatus.

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Claim 37 (new): A data communication apparatus according to claim 34,

wherein said serial bus conforms to IEEE 1394 standards.

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